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HEY, GOOD-'LOOKING': MEET FRANKIE J. ALVAREZ PAGE 10

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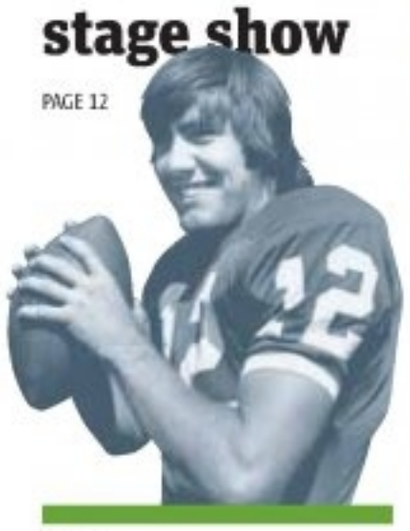
QB armed with a stage show
PAGE 12



Clean your room, get dirty in bed
PAGE 13

Where you'll be dining in 2014
PAGE 15

Billion-dollar skyline

A tall order. The 59-story, $1.2 billion Comcast Innovation and Technology Center, which will change the skyline of Philadelphia and become the tallest skyscraper here, is slated to break ground for construction this summer. PAGE 02

The new building is going up on Arch Street, between 18th and 19th streets. / PROVIDED

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1 NEWS

Top 3

What's trending at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: Bruce Springsteen joins Jimmy Fallon to address Bridgegate'

2 'VIDEO: Peter Pan actor proposes to Wendy during live show'

3 'VIDEO: Macklemore and Ryan Lewis perform 'Can't Hold Us' on MTA bus'

Comcast unveils its newest venture

Tall. The new skyscraper will be a foot higher than Comcast Center, its neighbor.

The Comcast Center is getting a brother — and boy, is he big.

On Wednesday, Comcast announced plans to build its second skyscraper in Center City. The $1.2 billion, 59-story Comcast Innovation and Technology Center will rise on Arch Street between 18th and 19th streets just steps from the original office tower, which opened in 2008.

Artist rendering / PROVIDED

It will be bigger by one foot. The original tower stands 58 stories.

The building will be home to the company's technologists, engineers and software architects. It will also host space for local startups and its local television affiliate NBC10/WCAU.

Comcast Chairman Brian Roberts said the new building will house the company's future, "which is transforming our company from its early roots 50 years ago" from "just a cable TV company into so much more today."

The Logan Square Four Seasons hotel will move to the top of the new tower, but it will only carry 200 rooms.

The tower will include an extensive, block-long lobby with a glass-enclosed indoor plaza. The lobby will feature a restaurant and a new concourse will connect with SEPTA's Suburban Station.

The cable TV and Internet goliath tapped Norman Foster, of Foster + Partners, to design the glass and stainless steel tower. Foster is most known for designing Apple's new spaceship-like-headquarters set for Cupertino, Calif.

Foster explained that the building will be divided into lofts and will include 13 sky gardens for techies to engage in creative brainstorming. The top of the building will also feature a roof deck with 360-degree views of the city.

TOMMY ROWAN
tommy.rowan@metro.us

Impact

Comcast said 1,500 jobs will be created.

- The company said it will lease out about 75 percent of the building.
- The state will contribute $30 million, and the city will chip in $10 million.
- Comcast will own 80 percent of the building, and Liberty Property Trust will own 10 percent.

By the numbers

1,121

Height of the tower in feet

2017

Construction is set to start this summer and will conclude in the fall of 2017.

Teaming up to find the best word

Fifth-graders Keila Leonard, left, and Samaya Debose make a move during the Philly Plays Scrabble Winter Classic Scrabble Tournament hosted by After School Activities Partnerships on Wednesday. The tournament featured 140 students playing two timed matches, with prizes for highest score, highest scoring word and best attendance. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Identified

Police name suspect in Dunkin' Donuts altercation

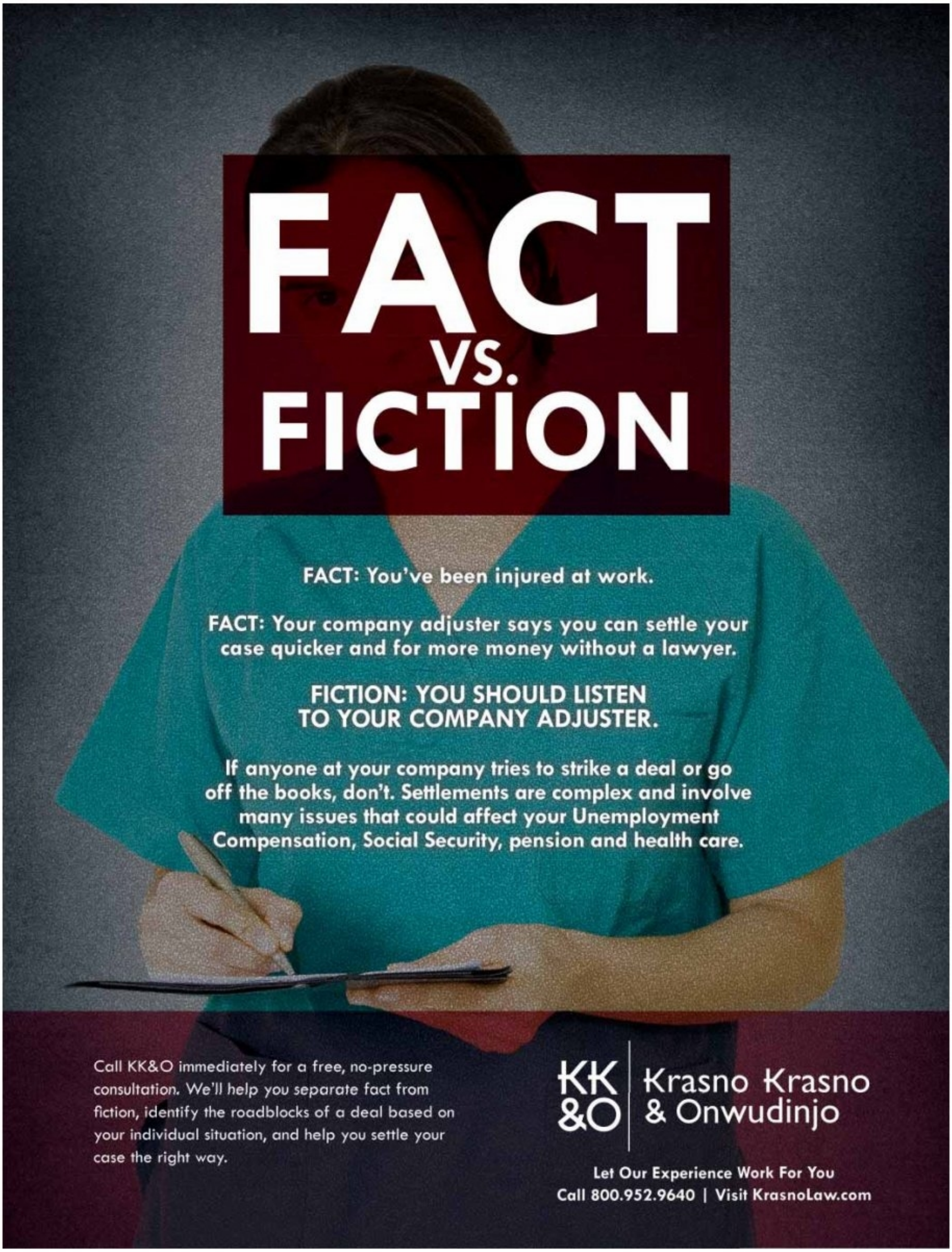
A week after a man flung a hot coffee in the face of a Dunkin' Donuts cashier, scalding her, police have identified the suspect.

William Houser, 36, of the 3400 block of North Carlisle Street, is now wanted for aggravated assault in connection with the coffee-throwing incident that occurred last week on Jan. 8 at a Dunkin' Donuts at 4701 N. Broad St. in Logan.

Around 1:09 p.m. that Wednesday, a man who employees knew as "Will" entered the coffee chain and tried to buy a coffee with an expired coupon.

He got into a verbal altercation with a cashier over the coupon, and then he tossed a full cup of coffee at her face. She was burned but did not require medical attention.

Police are currently seeking Houser, who is believed to frequent the 4700 block of Old York Road. METRO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Gunfire

Man sitting on porch shot, killed in Kingsessing

Police are investigating the shooting death of a man who was killed while sitting on a porch in front of a Kingsessing home Tuesday night.

Brandon Agnew, 32, was approached by multiple gunmen as he sat outside a home on the 5700 block of Hadfield Street about 9:30 p.m., according to police. The victim was shot in his head.

The motive for the fatal shooting is not clear. Police did not release any information about suspects. METRO

Center City

One dead in high-rise fire

A man died in a Center City high-rise fire Wednesday afternoon from smoke inhalation, reports say.

A fire ignited inside an apartment in the complex on South 13th Street around 4 p.m. METRO

Cookie time: Girl Scouts' booths boast new picks

Cookie party. Local Girl Scouts will be peddling two new flavors of cookie plus the old classics in Center City today.

Girl Scout cookies are here — and from Thursday through March 9, they will be popping up everywhere.

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, Girl Scouts will be selling their trademark cookies as part of a kickoff event. They'll be based at 16th and Chestnuts streets.

"From the booth experience, the girls really gain a lot of skills," said Girls Scouts manager Amanda Harrity. "You have these shy little Daisy Scouts, you put them in a booth, suddenly they're like a CEO of a company. It's really a big confidence booster."

The local classics are still Thin Mints, Caramel DeLites and Peanut Butter Patties.

But there are two new cookies this year: Gluten Free Chocolate Chip Shortbread cookies, for people with gluten sensitivity, and the Cranberry Citrus Crisp.

Girl Scouts accept payment by cash or card, and boxes of cookies cost just $4 each.

Oodles of flavors

The most popular Girl Scout cookie is the Thin Mint. But just how popular is it?

- **2012:** Over the two-month Girl Scout Cookie season, Thin Mints outsold Oreos — which are available year round.
- **2013:** Thin Mints were the No. 2 top-selling cookie in the U.S., after the double-stuffed Oreo.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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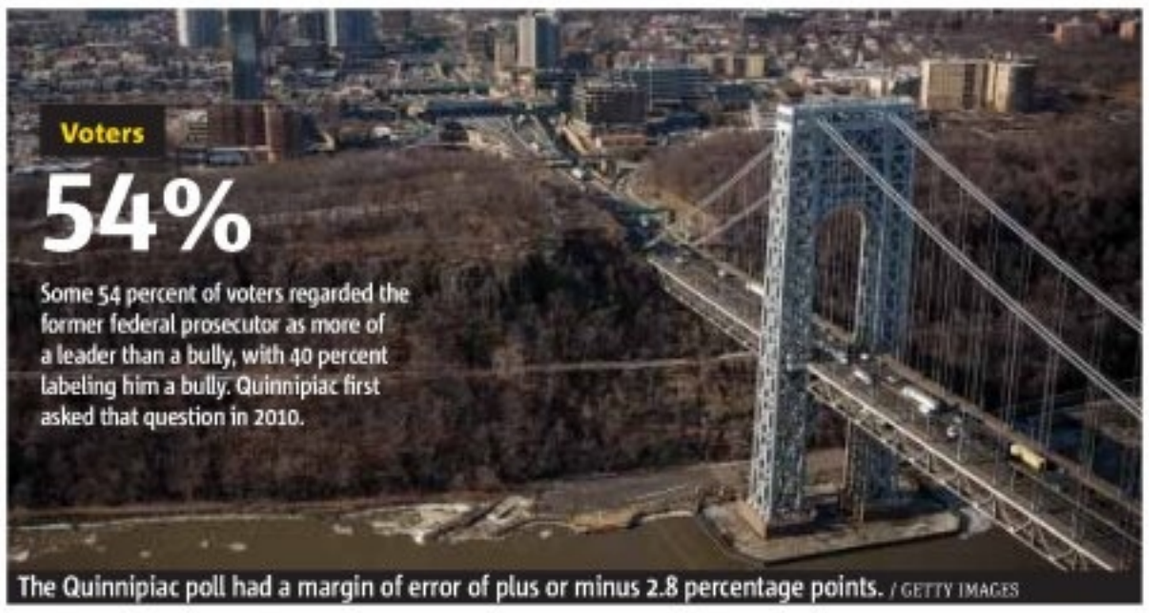
Lunch break at Race Street Pier

Northern Liberties residents Susan Grace, left, Cathy Sal and dog, Chloe, enjoy a warm afternoon on Wednesday alongside the Delaware River at the Race Street Pier. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Poll: NJ voters believe Christie in dark on GW Bridge scandal



Voters

54%

Some 54 percent of voters regarded the former federal prosecutor as more of a leader than a bully, with 40 percent labeling him a bully. Quinnipiac first asked that question in 2010.

The Quinnipiac poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points. / GETTY IMAGES

Jokes. Tabloid newspapers and late-night talk show hosts feasted on the scandal.

New Jersey voters do not blame Gov. Chris Christie for an epic September traffic jam on one of the world's busiest bridges, but think the scandal will hurt his chances as a 2016 presidential contender, a poll released on Wednesday found.

The prominent U.S. Republican's repeated apologies for the four-day tie-up has softened his image with voters who recently reelected him to a second term, earning him one of the lowest "bully" scores recorded in a poll by Quinnipiac University.

Fully 50 percent of respondents polled believed Christie's statement he did not know that a top aide, who he has since fired, called for the closure of three lanes on the George Washington Bridge possibly as political payback to the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee.

Just 41 percent of the 1,207 voters polled Jan. 10-13, after the release of emails tying the aide to the scandal dubbed "Bridgegate" by local media, did not believe Christie's assertions that he did not know his staff had been involved. **REUTERS**

No impact

38%

The poll found 49 percent of those polled said the scandal could damage the rising star in the Republican Party in his expected 2016 run for the White House, with 38 percent saying the scandal will have no impact.

Released by TMZ

Marine Corps investigates photos of bodies being burned

The Marine Corps said on Wednesday it was investigating a series of photos depicting what appeared to be a Marine pouring flammable liquid on dead bodies in an unidentified compound and setting them ablaze.

The photos were sent to the Defense Department last week by the entertainment website TMZ, which said it had been told the pictures were taken in Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004 and the bodies were those of slain insurgents, a U.S. defense official said. **REUTERS**

North Carolina trip.

Obama unveils manufacturing hub

President Obama arrives at North Carolina State University. / GETTY IMAGES

President Barack Obama on Wednesday announced a new public-private manufacturing hub in North Carolina during his visit to the state, seeking to bolster an industry that he considers essential to raising middle class incomes.

The hub, backed by $70 million in federal funding, would connect manufacturers with emerging research on energy-efficient, high-power electronic chips to make electronic devices smaller and faster, he said. **REUTERS**

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Apple reaches consent decree over children's app purchases

Result. The Commission vote to accept the consent agreement package was 3-1.

Apple Inc. will refund consumers at least $32.5 million to settle a long-standing complaint that the technology company billed U.S. consumers for charges incurred by children buying mobile apps without their parents' consent.

Under the terms of the settlement, announced on Wednesday by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, Apple also will be required to change its billing practices to ensure it obtains consent from consumers before charging for items sold in mobile apps.

"Whether you're doing business in the mobile arena or the mall down the street, fundamental consumer protections apply," said FTC Chairwoman Edith Ramirez. "You cannot charge consumers for purchases they did not authorize."

Quoted

"Protecting children has been a top priority for the App Store from the very beginning."

Steve Dowling, Apple spokesman

In an internal memo to employees, Apple CEO Tim Cook said the company decided to settle rather than risk a long and distracting legal battle, because the FTC's proposals aligned with the company's own intended changes.

Ramirez said the commission had logged "tens of thousands of complaints" from consumers over the unauthorized purchases of apps such as Dragon Story and Tiny Zoo Friends.

The FTC complaint alleges that Apple does not inform account holders that entering their password in the company's App Store opens a 15-minute window in which children can incur unlimited charges with no further action from the account holder. **REUTERS**

AG vows probe after spill

West Virginia's top law enforcement officer on Wednesday vowed a full investigation of a chemical spill that contaminated tap water for hundreds of thousands of people. Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said there was speculation surrounding the spill into the Elk River at Charleston, the state capital, on Thursday that shut off water to more than 300,000 people. **REUTERS** /GETTY IMAGES

Capital cannabis

DC panel considers decriminalizing marijuana

The District of Columbia will take a step closer toward decriminalizing marijuana on Wednesday with a move that will make smoking a joint in the U.S. capital a violation comparable to a parking ticket.

With Washington arresting people for pot possession at a higher rate than any state, a city council panel is set to mark up a bill that would reduce penalties for possessing less than an ounce to a fine as little as $25. Decriminalization would hold down police costs and reduce "undeniable racial disparities" that see blacks far more likely than whites to be arrested for pot, said Tommy Wells, chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, which will make changes to the bill.

"We have to take action to decriminalize possession of an ounce or less of marijuana and reform our criminal justice system," Wells said. **REUTERS**

By the numbers

15

If the bill is passed, Washington would join 15 states that have decriminalized marijuana use.

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2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Solange Knowles is learning about having a toddler, Lena Dunham is relaxed but ashamed and Anna Kendrick thought the future would be cooler.

@solangeknowles: Just called my bf to report hearing noises in the house. Go to check on my son,only to find out he's been up since 2 too. HE is the "noise".

@lenadunham: Did the thing I swore I'd never do: got a public massage at an airport kiosk. It hurts not to know yourself anymore.

@AnnaKendrick47: Aren't we supposed to have meals in pill form by now? Cause at least once a week I open my fridge and think "s—, I need to make water"

A swimmingly-good party for Steven Tyler

Steven Tyler, looking more and more like an extra from "Deadwood," held onto model Marisa Miller at the 50th anniversary of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue at Dolby Theatre on Tuesday in Hollywood, Calif.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Talking point

Lindsay Lohan needs security detail

Lindsay Lohan likes to use protection, apparently. While in London this week, the scandal-prone starlet reportedly put in a call to the Metropolitan Police to provide an escort for a 10-foot walk from her car to a venue for a friend's birthday party, according to the Mail Online. Lohan apparently felt she needed the beefed up security detail because of a clutch of paparazzi waiting for her, and she reportedly asked the police that to arrest the photographers for loitering.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
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dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Ciara announces pregnancy with Future

R&B star Ciara and her fiance, producer Future, are having a baby! So is there a boy or a girl in Ciara and Future's future?

Ciara knows, but she's not telling. However, one thing she will say is that it will be the kind of baby that Future likes and Ciara does not.

Regarding the sex of their child, the "Body Party" singer told HuffPost Live, "I did have a preference before I found out what it was. ... [The result] was different than what I thought, but my fiance got what he wanted."

Cool, so awesome lesson for new parents: You should both establish preferences for the sex of your baby, and they should be different so no matter what, one of you is disappointed in your child before it's even born.

Ciara spilled the news on Tuesday's episode of "The View" that she and Future are expecting. Barbara Walters — who, during the first few minutes of an interview, kept looking at the singer's torso — addressed Ciara in typical Barbara Walters fashion, saying, "There are rumors about pregnancy. Do you want to confirm?"

Ciara outside of "The View" on Tuesday

Gender bias

"I did have a preference before I found out what it was. ... [The result] was different than what I thought, but my fiance got what he wanted." Ciara

And as Barbara Walters is wont to do, she got results: Ciara stood up to display her baby bump.

Ciara and Future plan to marry this year. Presumably after the birth of their child — Miss C looks pretty far along. They should probably wait until she's had time to recover from her baby's birth and stupid gender. **MELINDA TAUB**

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‘Looking’ at the gay experience through a new lens

TV. Frankie J. Alvarez discusses his role in HBO’s hyped new show.

“Looking” (with Alvarez, far right) premieres on Jan. 19 at 10:30 p.m. on HBO. / JOHN P. JOHNSON

Before he was tapped to audition for HBO’s “Looking” (a new show about the lives of three young gay men in San Francisco) Frankie J. Alvarez had never acted in front of a camera. A recent Juilliard grad, he’d been working the regional theater scene. But when HBO calls, you answer. Now, he’s one of the three leads on a hotly anticipated new show and says he couldn’t be happier.

What was it about the show that attracted you to join the project?
The show, writing-wise, is just so naturalistic and the way that Andrew [Haigh] films it ... the camera just feels like another person that you’re in the room with. You really feel a sense of intimacy. Then, of course, playing Augustine has been a really exciting challenge. What’s so great is to be playing an intelligent, articulate Latin man who really embraces his sexuality and has a strong sense of who he is.

There hasn’t been an exclusively gay show on a big network like this since “The L Word.” What do you hope this will add to the conversation?
I think what we really want is for the gay community to feel represented and that their voice is being heard, and that they feel they can see themselves in this show. And, for the straight community, to feel like they have a window into what these guys’ lives are like: To see their own life circumstances within these guys.

Does the show confront any stereotypes?
I think what’s really great is that it feels like, for these three guys, the gay aspect of their lives is just one circumstance out of the many circumstances that they are dealing with. That being said, there are some jokes. There is a little scene that happens in episode six where I tease Patrick for having a gay-sounding voice.

I hope that we’ll soon get to a point where a scene with two guys making out isn’t at all shocking.
I hope for the same, that we don’t have this divide where this is a gay film and this is a film for straight people. Hopefully that changes in the same way it should change for minorities as well.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
alexandra.cavallo@metro.us

Bonus question

‘Guys’?

The show seems a bit like “Girls,” with gay men in San Francisco instead of straight girls in New York. Is there any truth to that?
Yeah, I think that’s a simple way to look at it — and I think it’s flattering to be compared to a show like “Girls” or “Sex and the City” — but I think the comparison stops once you watch the show. Yes, they are friends surviving in the city and dealing with relationships, love and their careers, but just totally writing-wise ... it really isn’t like those shows. You have got to sort of frame it, you have to frame the new with the old. Hopefully in 10 years there will be shows coming out where people will be like, “Oh, it’s like the straight ‘Looking.’”

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Metro rounds up what's in cinemas this week.

Must see

'Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit'

1 One of the Cold War's most reliable do-gooders returns with this reboot, in which the CIA man (Chris Pine) battles Russians. Wait: Russians? What era is this?

Chris Pine takes over the role played by several other big-name actors in "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit." / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

2 **'Ride Along'** Surely the Ice Cube circa "Straight Outta Compton" always imagined he'd be doing little else but playing cops. Here, the ex-N.W.A. member decides to torture the diminutive, motormouth wannabe-officer (Kevin Hart) who wants to marry his sister.

3 **'The Nut Job'** Will Arnett headlines this heist 'toon, voicing a loner squirrel who learns the value of sharing and socialist living when the fellow animals of an urban park find themselves short on food for the winter.

4 **'Devil's Due'** A horror film cropping up in the infamous January dumping grounds? Where do we sign up? For whatever it's worth, this finds a couple dealing with an apparent demonic pregnancy and its directors cut their teeth on the low-budget "V/H/S."

5 **'The Invisible Woman'** Ralph Fiennes directs and stars in this drama as Charles Dickens who, as it happened, took a secret mistress: Nelly Ternan (Felicity Jones), a poor, young, artistically minded woman some 25 years his junior.

6 **'Lone Survivor'** Based on a true event recounted by soldier Marcus Luttrell, Mark Wahlberg heads up a sparse cast of four SEALs who get ambushed on a mission in Taliban-run Afghanistan. The title's a bit of a spoiler.

7 **'Her'** Spike Jonze returns with the tale of a lonely divorcee (Joaquin Phoenix) living in the near future who falls in love with his new, self-aware operating system (voiced by Scarlett Johansson).

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

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Tackling the theater

FORMER PHILADELPHIA EAGLES' QUARTERBACK MIKE BORYLA, INSET, IS STARRING IN A SHOW ABOUT HIS TIME WITH THE TEAM AT PLAYS AND PLAYERS. KIMBERLY SPEAD PHOTOGRAPHY

Stage. We doubt all former Eagles' quarterbacks (see: No. 5) would agree with Mike Boryla's glowing take on Philly.

Just because the Birds made an early exit from this year's playoffs does not mean all Eagles' quarterbacks have left the stage.

Mike Boryla, the Eagles' QB from 1974 to 1976, is set to star in "The Disappearing Quarterback," a one-man show he wrote about his time on the team, starting this week at Plays and Players Theatre in Center City.

"I was only with Philadelphia for three years, but it left its mark on me," Boryla says. "Even though I was away for 35 years and didn't come back here, it was still always there. Philadelphia was really the first place I felt comfortable with who I was — I really felt like I was at home. I was a little bit different, I was a little bit odd, but here in Philadelphia it really doesn't matter. People like you for who you are."

Boryla marches to the beat of a different drummer. After winning the starting job at the end of the 1974 season, he bought a van and lived in it in California. The Stanford grad started for two years for the Eagles, but after a stopover with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, he retired and became a lawyer.

Now Boryla, who lives in Colorado with his wife and children, is an actor and a playwright. He appeared in Plays and Players' "Voices of a People's History of the United States" last year.

"Theater needs fresh new voices," says director Daniel Student via email. "It's not every day that a former sports star sends a script to you to consider producing. Before I even read the play I said, 'This is something we need to pursue.'"

In the play, Boryla talks about life in the go-go '70s NFL, a time when the league was transitioning from a second-tier sport to the national pastime it is now.

"It was a little bit wilder, a little bit off the cuff," Boryla says. "They didn't have as many rules. When I first came into the league, you didn't have spring practices, you just showed up at training camp and got into shape. Now, my God, these guys have to train five days a week year round."

Boryla is enjoying his time rehearsing the play.

"I hang around Old City and Rittenhouse Square," Boryla says. "When I played for the Eagles, they told us to stay away from downtown Philly and not walk around here. I just love it here — it's wonderful."

CHRIS JORDAN
letters@metro.us

If you go

'The Disappearing Quarterback'

Through Feb. 2
Plays and Players Theatre,
1714 Delancey St.
$25 advance, $30 door
866-811-4111
www.playsandplayers.org

Quoted

I was a little bit odd, but here in Philadelphia it really doesn't matter. People like you for who you are." Boryla

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(But, remember, he wasn't always an old ugly man - once, he was just ugly)

Make your space as sexy as you are

NEW in the new year

Hot mess. When you take somebody home, be sure your space keeps up appearances.

So the date is going well and you're ready to bring that guy or gal back to your place. That's when the sirens go off as you scramble to straighten up because your ex's photo is still on the shelf and there are unmentionables sitting on the bathroom floor.

Since your home is a reflection of who you are, professional organizing consultant Donna David says it's the ultimate first impression: "Your home tells a potential mate so much about taste, personality and lifestyle."

Having a welcoming and organized home isn't only wise — it's a mirror of yourself as a potential mate. If your date sees a ton of clutter, it could be game over. Lisa Shapot, co-founder of home design firm The Think Tank, says checking out your date's digs is a test to see if you can potentially cohabit with someone.

There's also the possibility of revealing too much, too soon — like mistakenly leaving some old medication laying around even if a nasty infection has disappeared. Sindi Landman, Shapot's business partner and The Think Tank co-founder, emphasizes the privacy factor as you're dating: "You don't want to open too much of yourself too quickly."

They recommend the basics like sweeping, going through medicine cabinets and filing old bills. Also, remove any mementos of exes. Shapot says that when you're holding on too tightly to an old relationship, your "heart is blocked to the potential for something new."

As you remove the clutter, The Think Tank's co-founders recommend a "daykover." This is a makeover of your abode without lofty renovations or time commitments — instead, move some things around and spice it up a bit.

VICKI SALEMI
letters@metro.us

Having trouble finding love? A clutter-free makeover could be a good start. / PHOTODISC

Tips for date-friendly homes

DOs:

- Get rid of unnecessary items. Place excess photos and knickknacks in a box. "Less is more," says David.
- Hide personal items like self-help books. This includes books on the perfect marriage and relationship rescue books too. People look to bookshelves and make quick judgments.
- Toss storage items after a year. After you put something in a box to store it, Landman says, if you haven't "looked at it or thought about it," you should toss it.

DON'Ts:

- Maintain a gross refrigerator. Toss that old, moldy food, especially since it's not uncommon to open a refrigerator during a date to grab a beverage.
- Let paperwork circulate. David advises reading daily mail rapidly. "Either toss, shred, take action (pay bills) or file away."
- Allow clutter. By straightening up daily, you'll prevent clutter from accumulating.
- Have an unmade bed. Be sure to make it every day, advises Landman.

Advice

Tidy means thoughtful

"Soften your space," Shapot advises. This means buying fresh flowers, lighting candles and getting a throw for your couch from TJ Maxx or Home Goods. And as you grab some fresh lilies, spruce up your space prior to date night the same way you'll put some love into your outfit. It shows your date that you care, Shapot adds: "It's a nice feeling to know somebody thought about it ahead of time."

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"Your home tells a potential mate so much about your style and taste, personality and lifestyle."

Donna David, organizing consultant

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Get your kicks

The dream of the '90s is alive with ASOS and Puma this spring

While we await Riccardo Tisci's collaboration with Nike to hit the shelves, there's another (more affordable) sportswear rendezvous to get excited about. For spring, ASOS teamed up with Puma on a 12-piece collection inspired by '90s streetwear.

The capsule line, which debuted Monday and ranges in price from $63 to $117, will (as you can imagine, based on the era) have an in-your-face look. Skirts and crop tops feature a mix of color-blocking, graffiti and animal prints, along with feminine lace in a bold color palette of black, white and gray with vibrant red and metallic accents. METRO

See more at www.metro.us

Ready for hanging out — or, you know, a dance battle. / PROVIDED

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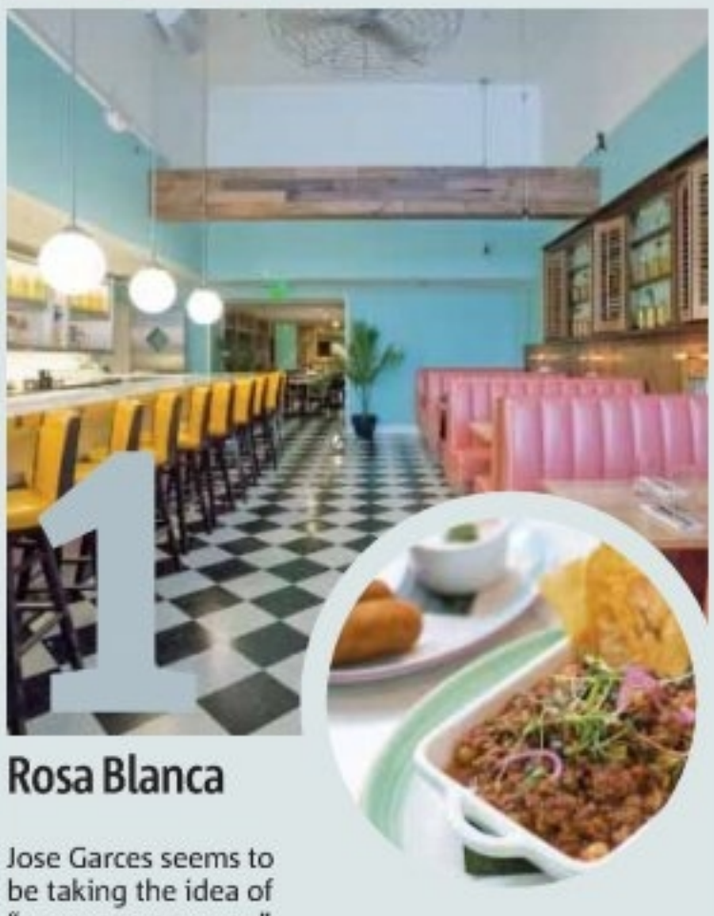
Hot new restaurants

NEW in the new year

The city's food scene just keeps getting better. This year our taste buds have plenty to look forward to. Philadelphia, here's where you'll be eating soon. **JULIA WEST**

Garces gone wild



1 Rosa Blanca

Jose Garces seems to be taking the idea of "new year, new you" to, well, a new level. Garces closed Chifa, his Peruvian and Cantonese restaurant, redesigned the interior and opened up a Cuban diner serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and late-night options. Where else are you going to find a place that opens at 7 a.m. and has pork belly on the breakfast menu? That's worth getting up early for, even if the service errs on the slow side and both dining rooms are too loud. **707 Chestnut St., 215-925-5555, www.rosablancadiner.com**

More Iron

Chef, again

2 Volver

On the other side of the dining spectrum, Garces is also opening Volver inside the Kimmel Center. It was supposed to be up and running in the fall, but development delays pushed back the high-end, champagne-heavy restaurant's opening to, tentatively, this spring. The most talked about aspect of Volver is not what's on the menu, but who's in the kitchen: Garces plans to be behind the line at his latest endeavor.

Brotherly love

3 Petruce et al.

Brothers Jonathan and Justin Petruce have plenty of restaurant experience behind them, with résumés that, collectively, include Fish, Little Fish and Restaurant M. They both worked at Meme, too. Now they're teaming up again, only this time the siblings are opening their own place and embracing two of-the-moment concepts: "We have a wood fire oven and wood fire grill, so everything food-wise will be related to that," Jonathan says. "We're getting unaltered wine in its most natural state: just fermented grapes, how they're supposed to be." The brothers are looking to open next month. **1121 Walnut St., 267-225-8232, www.petrucephilly.com**

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Pho real

4 Stock

If you were lucky enough to attend Zahav's Jewish Christmas a few weeks ago, you've already had a preview of Stock's upcoming menu, the new Vietnamese restaurant in Fishtown that Zahav sous chef Tyler Akin is working on. The rest of us will just have to wait a little longer for a hot bowl of pho at the new spot, slated to open later this month in what used to be an ice cream shop. 308 E. Girard Ave.

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Photo by Matthew Christopher

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Hot Chef. Joe Frost's new menu at Brittingham's is "more approachable."

Frost's favorite ingredient is "pork, plain and simple."
COURTNEY APPLE

In Lafayette Hill, the Irish pub Brittingham's was known to many as a landmark. Last spring, the restaurant shut down while new owners Randy Feinberg and David Eckelmeyer began renovating and reinventing the entire place. In the meantime, executive chef Joe Frost was creating a menu. The focus is clearly comfort food, with a "TV dinner" on the menu, but the feel is refined. According to Frost, business is wonderful.

Have you been involved with opening a restaurant before?
I was part of the opening team for the Ritz Carlton, but I was 21 then. It's a different animal now that I'm older.

What is the process like creating a menu?
Long! With the construction taking up so much time we had a lot of time to play around with different ideas and rework some things. A friend owns a restaurant in Wayne and let us use some of the space and the kitchen during the day. It was a lot of fun.

How has the restaurant changed with its second incarnation?
I think it has a broader appeal now. It's more approachable. It had its niche, but it almost became too much of a tiny clique and shut out the rest of the world. It was too much of just a regulars' place, which can make you feel unwelcome when you're not a regular. We wanted to make it warm and inviting for everybody.

The menu at Brittingham's is elevated comfort food. Where do you look for comfort food inspiration, and how do you make it more refined?
It's what I want to eat; it's familiar. My concept is that it still needs to taste like what it's supposed to taste like, just taken to another level. Meatloaf should still taste like meatloaf. Our cheesesteak tastes like a cheesesteak. So many places try to revamp it. At one of the restaurant's training sessions I told everyone that I'm going to make everything from your childhood — and make you mad at your mom for not making it this way.

JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us

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MUSIC

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Friday, 7 p.m.
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$25-28, 215-232-2100
www.utphilly.com
Union Transfer welcomes Colorado's Big Head Todd and the Monsters as they tour in support of their 14th studio album, "Black Beehive," due out in February. These blues rockers have been playing for more than 25 years and show no signs of slowing down.

The Smithereens

Friday, 8 p.m.
World Cafe Live, 3025 Walnut St.
$27, 215-222-1400
www.worldcafelive.com
World Cafe Live hosts this New Jersey quartet as they crank out hits like "Blood and Roses," A Girl Like You" and "Only a Memory." They are touring in support of what was their first album in a dozen years, "2011."

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MUSIC

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RYAN DONNELL

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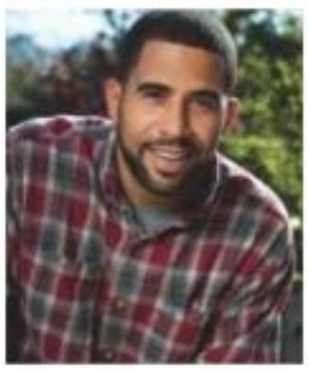

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Horoscope

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Listen carefully, but don't allow your emotions to sway you in one direction or another. It would be better to mediate.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. A proposal will bring in extra cash and change the way you live. Don't let a secret affair cause grief.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. You can make your dreams come true with a little time and effort. Join organizations that share your interests. A special person should be treated to a romantic evening.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Your changing or inconsistent attitude will cause disruptions with the people you deal with personally and professionally.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Make personal changes that will keep you up to date. A pleasurable trip will entice you, but caution while traveling will be essential.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Set your goals high, and get ready for action. Consultation with experts will enable you to cut corners and reach your destination.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. If you feel uncertain, step back and observe. The more information you gather, the easier it will be to make a tough choice. Refuse to get upset.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. An emotional matter will skyrocket if you don't control the situation. Prepare to make last-minute changes.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Take steps to ensure that things go the way you plan. Don't leave anything to chance, and take steps to correct a situation.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Watch what everyone else is doing and protect your interests. Empty promises can be expected.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Let your mind wander and your imagination take over. Take a look at your friendships, lifestyle and home base.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. An investment opportunity may look like a sure thing, but look before you leap. You aren't likely to have all the facts required to make an educated choice. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

1		3			6	7		5
					9		4	6
					7	3	1	
	2		6		4			
	3			9			8	
			2		3		6	
	9	6	7					
4	7		9					
5		1	4			9		7

						6	5	
		5	8					3
4					3		8	7
				8		7	2	6
2		3				8		1
7	6	8		2				
8	3		6					9
9					2	5		
	5	1						

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Czar Christie

Re: 'So-called "bullies" make history' (Metro, Jan. 15) I got a good laugh from Robert Sieger's letter lamenting poor Chris Christie's "ordeal by the liberal media." Our New Jersey governor, a Tony Soprano wannabe, is finally being revealed for the petty, vindictive tyrant that he has always been.
Mr. Sieger posted a list of American "bullies who are now American icons," but he forgot many other historical bullies who are also icons, but not in a good way: Caligula, Nero, Attila the Hun, Genghis Khan, Ivan IV, Robespierre, Stalin and many more. You're right, Mr. Sieger — none of them would have tolerated the teachers union either!
JANET WALSH, VIA EMAIL

Follow the money

Re: 'Congress v. the middle class' (Metro, Jan. 15) To letter writer Herb Stark and other Metro readers, may I offer an answer to Congress's inability to do what is right/good for us, the middle class: Money! Republicans and Democrats are in office today because of the larger campaign contributions the upper class is able to give. Statistics show that the elected officials spend more time raising money to be elected than they do on studying policy to benefit the people, especially monetary policy. As stated in the letter, cutting funding is wrong when the problem lies in Congress's ignorance of the money power. The answer is found in our debt-based, usurious monetary system controlled by the privately owned Federal Reserve, where their policy is to have the middle class never have enough money to pay their debts, giving all of our elected officials a sense of a constant state of scarcity.
DAVID SNIECKUS, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

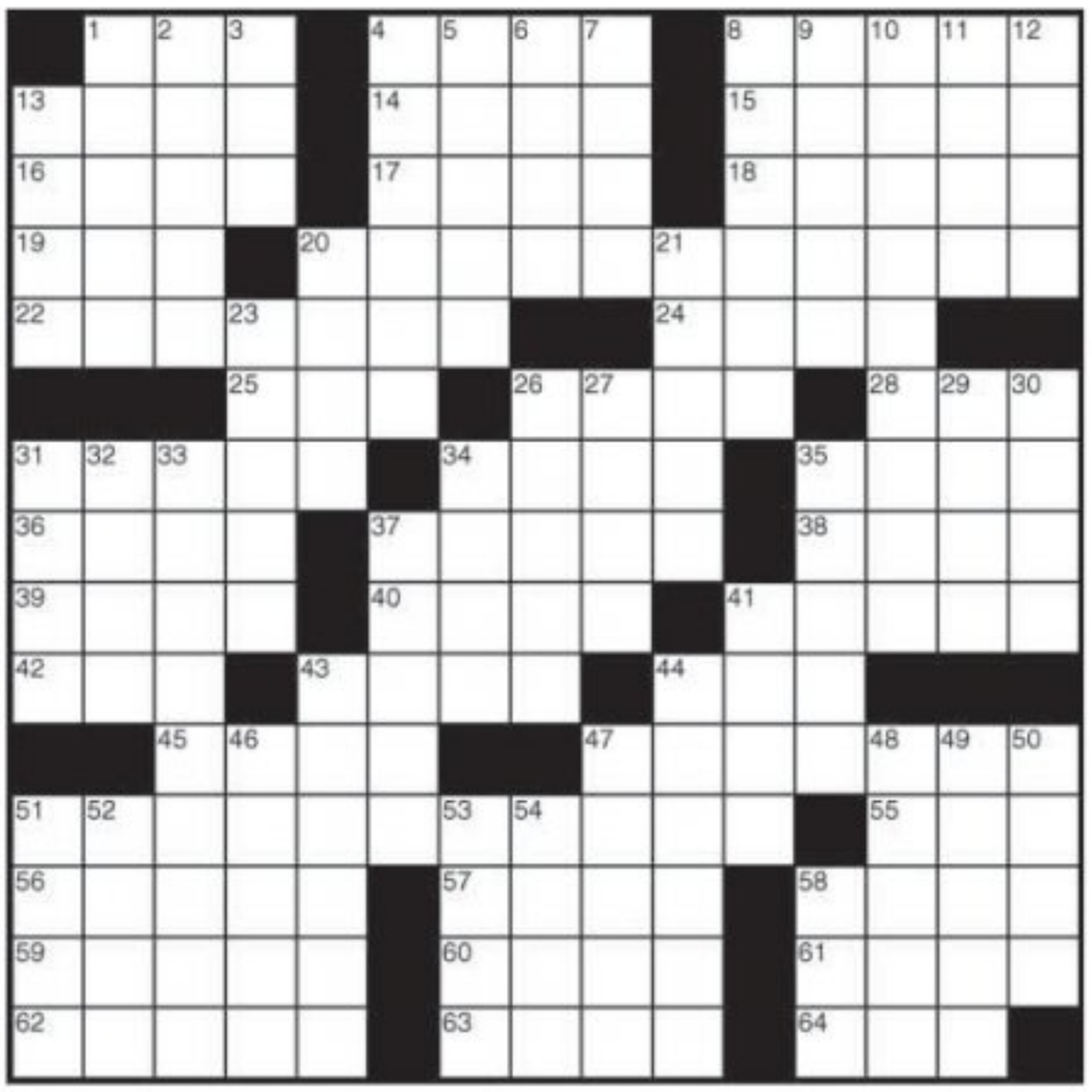
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

Across
1 Flavor enhancer
4 Cult
8 Hoard (2 wds.)
13 Yawn
14 Lunar phenomenon
15 Port near Kyoto
16 Churn up
17 Paperless exam
18 Chinese pooches, slangily
19 Technique
20 Early mail service (2 wds.)
22 Sputters
24 Balance
25 Belly dance instrument
26 Mutual fund charge
28 Hedge shrub
31 Fixes a sock
34 Throng
35 NASDAQ rival
36 Toward shelter
37 Zeus' shield
38 Metrical foot
39 Grab onto
40 Set down
41 Elbows
42 August kid, maybe
43 Huge excess
44 Place to soak
45 Rocky Mountain st.
47 Cheese dish
51 Vole (2 wds.)
55 Bliss
56 Low voices
57 Diminishes
58 Friar
59 Wharves
60 One and only
61 Indy champ — Luyendyk
62 Full of back talk
63 Loaf end
64 Genetic strand

Down
1 Kiwi language
2 Chowchow
3 Semiliquid
4 Chased away
5 Deserves
6 Potter's medium
7 Enameled metal
8 Moved jauntily
9 Exploiters
10 Talk, talk, talk (hyph.)
11 Luau strings
12 Free ticket
13 — Zeppelin
20 Not to mention
21 Dental photos (hyph.)
23 Like city lots
26 Not phony
27 Ancient Roman poet
29 Salinger heroine
30 Duck's feet
31 Wonka's creator
32 — vera lotion
33 Rents a U-Haul
34 Admirer
35 Weeper of myth
37 Tolerate
41 Safe to drink
43 Shiny
44 Mortarboard feature
46 Foul smells
47 Ivan's dollar
48 Borg of tennis
49 Old Greek colony
50 Little child
51 Glove compartment items
52 Charles Lamb
53 Netting
54 Plaintive reed
58 Sully

Yesterday's answer



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Sixers face decision on when to play Noel

NBA. Rookie center has been cleared to resume basketball-related activities.

Sixers center Nerlens Noel has been limited in practice, but could potentially play this season. / GETTY IMAGES

Nerlens Noel could potentially don a Sixers uniform this season. Then again, he could also sit out the season.

The Sixers acquired the former University of Kentucky standout in a draft night trade in June despite the fact that Noel had suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee while playing for the Wildcats in mid-February.

ESPN.com reported Wednesday that Dr. James Andrews has cleared Noel to resume basketball-related activities and possibly return to the court after the All-Star break.

Before Wednesday's game against the Charlotte Bobcats, Philadelphia coach Brett Brown basically told everyone to hold on.

Nothing is finalized just yet.

"There's a collection of people who will be involved in the decision," Brown said. "There are some things that have been lifted in relation to being only to shoot one-handed with him. But there are so many different layers to this. To get all excited now about a timeline put out would not be a wise thing to do. He's got to tick a lot more boxes. He's progressing well. But there really is not a definitive timeline."

Brown on Noel

"To think you're going to go from one-handed shooting to guarding Tim Duncan in a six-week period is kind of ambitious."

76ers head coach Brett Brown on when he expects Nerlens Noel to play.

Acquiring Noel was clearly a step toward the future. All along, it was believed that he would be sidelined for most, if not all, of the 2013-14 season. Especially since the Sixers are in a rebuilding mode.

Noel played just 24 games for the Wildcats, but was still named the SEC Defensive Player of the Year.

The 19-year-old has a promising career ahead and the Sixers don't want to damage anything by rushing him back.

"We're not just going to recklessly put him on a stage and expect results," Brown said. "As it plays out, if it's possible, we'll put him on the court."

Noel has been working vigorously with Brown before games. Noel also is working extremely hard in the weight room.

He'll keep doing that until all parties involved believe he's ready.

When would that be?

"I really don't know," Brown said. "It's like he's ticking boxes at a rate that we had hoped. He's moving there, but to project anything or to guess anything, it's all I'll be doing to take a wild-shot guess. We'll keep everybody in the loop and keep it wide open. At this stage, it's only really fair to say he's doing well."

ANDY JASNER
sports@metro.us

3 SPORTS

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Dodgers' Kershaw signs mega deal

Two-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw and the Dodgers agreed to the largest MLB contract for a pitcher in history Wednesday at seven years, $215 million. The lefty will earn more than $30 million annually. Last season Kershaw went 16-9 with a 1.83 ERA in 2013.

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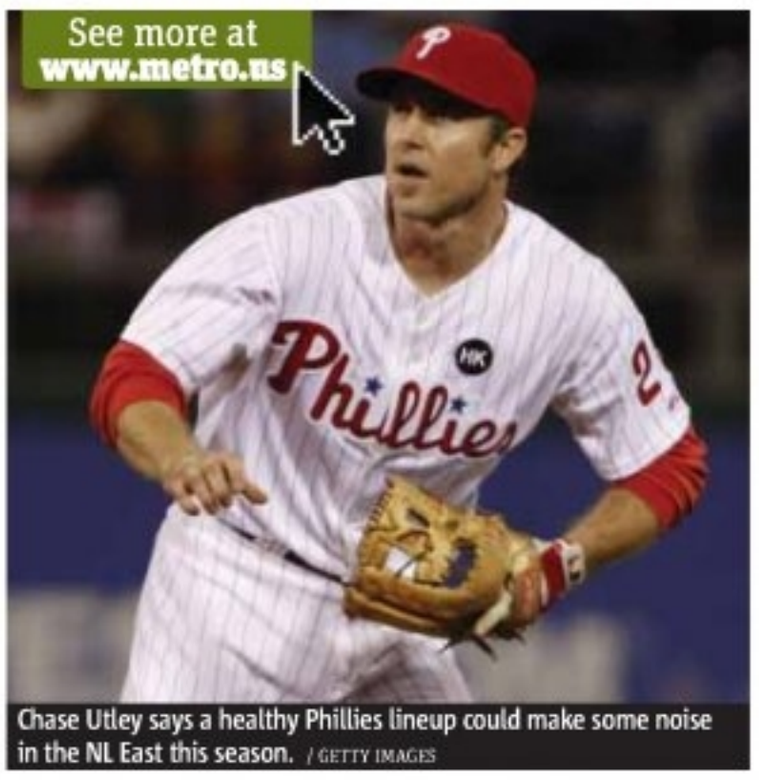
Utley on Phillies: 'We can contend'

MLB. Utley is optimistic about lineup heading into the 2014 season.



Chase Utley says a healthy Phillies lineup could make some noise in the NL East this season. / GETTY IMAGES

For a while, it seemed like Chase Utley would never be healthy. The All-Star second baseman missed substantial time in two consecutive seasons before 2012.

But Utley stayed healthy and earned an extension last season by posting solid numbers and by impressing on the field with his solid defense and exceptional base-running skills.

Utley pointed to a rigorous conditioning program as the reason for his improbable comeback. Prior to the 2012 season Utley took grounders every other day at the University of San Francisco, which is close to his Northern California home.

Utley takes grounders three days a week. Next week he'll amp up his program to four days of ground balls each week.

"I'm going to do whatever it takes," Utley said. "I feel good about this team."

Utley isn't pulling a Jimmy Rollins and predicting a division title but he believes the Phillies will be in the mix.

"I definitely think we can contend," Utley said. "Having Ryan (Howard) is huge. Getting Ben Revere back, he was just starting to heat up last year when he got hurt, is big."

Utley is bullish on rookie third baseman Cody Asche. It's not surprising since the hard-nosed Asche plays the same way as Utley.

"You guys saw him," Utley said. "I thought he handled himself really well. I hit .230 my first year. I was just glad to be up here. But he handled it differently."

Utley doesn't blame the lack of hitting, the horrendous bullpen or any one facet of the game for the Phillies 73-89 record.

"I think as a team we just lost," Utley said. "Overall, we just didn't get it done."

That's a tall order for Ryne Sandberg, who will manage his first full season in the big leagues.

"I think he can do the job," Utley said. "I like what he did when he came in as manager. But it's not just him. It's up to all of us to come through this season."

ED CONDRAN
sports@metro.us

The lineup

Here's a look at the Phillies' projected lineup and their respective ages in 2014.

C	Carlos Ruiz (34 years old)
1B	Ryan Howard (34)
2B	Chase Utley (35)
3B	Cody Asche (23)
SS	Jimmy Rollins (35)
LF	Marlon Byrd (36)
CF	Ben Revere (25)
RF	Dominic Brown (26)

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NHL power rankings | by Rich Slate

No. 1

Ducks (35-8-5)

Things are great at Disneyland: the Ducks have won seven games in a row and they are still unbeaten in regulation at the Honda Center (19-0-2). Goaltender Jonas Hiller (23-4-4, .914 save percentage, 2.34 GAA, 3 shutouts) was named the NHL's second star of the week. Anaheim is tied with Chicago for the second-best goal differential in the NHL (plus-42).

No. 2

Blues (32-8-5)

The Blues lead the league in goal differential, are built for the playoffs and anything less than a long run this spring will be a huge disappointment.

No. 3

Blackhawks (30-8-11)

The unthinkable happened last week as the Blackhawks suffered their first three-game losing streak of the season. Chicago is a pedestrian 4-1-5 in its last 10.

No. 4

Penguins (33-12-2)

They are 7-2-1 in their last 10 games with a plus-40 goal differential. Barring some major injuries, they'll be the team to beat in the East.

No. 5

Sharks (29-12-6)

Getting snubbed for Team Canada should motivate Joe Thornton (NHL-leading 45 assists), who typically goes missing in the postseason.

No. 6

Avalanche (29-12-5)

The Avs have started to find a groove again with Semyon Varlamov (22-8-5, .927 save percentage) leading the way for the young but loaded team.

No. 7

Bruins (29-15-2)

As expected, the trip to California was painful (1-2 with nine goals allowed in two losses). It won't get much easier as Boston heads back to the road for a game in Dallas Thursday.

No. 8

Lightning (28-15-4)

The Lightning have become a legitimate contender in the East thanks to Martin St. Louis and Ben Bishop. And Steven Stamkos could return soon.

No. 9

Kings (28-14-5)

The Kings cleared up their goaltending situation by trading backup Ben Scrivens to Edmonton for a third-round pick in the 2014 draft.

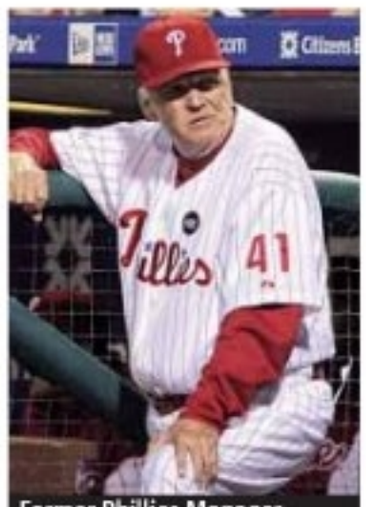
No. 10

Canadiens (26-16-5)

The upcoming four-game road trip — Ottawa, Toronto, Pittsburgh and Detroit — will be tough. They have also potted 118 goals and allowed 111.

Manuel to make return to Phillies

MLB. The recently fired manager will accept a job with the Phillies' front office.



Former Phillies Manager Charlie Manuel / GETTY IMAGES

Phillies fans love him. The Phillies players love him. And the Phillies front office does too. Charlie Manuel, just five months after being let go as Phillies manager, will return to the organization as a senior advisor to the general manager, according to reports.

Manuel had a similar position back in 2003, prior to becoming the de facto manager in 2005.

There was much speculation during the past few weeks and months that Manuel would return in some capacity after general manager Reuben Amaro Jr. mentioned he was open to Manuel returning to the team.

Known for being a hitting guru, Manuel's expertise could help the offensively challenged Phillies as they look to return to the top of the NL East.

He is arguably the most successful and most popular manager the Phillies have ever had. In nine seasons at the helm, Manuel went 780-636 with a World Series title in 2008 and NL pennant in 2009.

Manuel was relieved of duties as the Phillies skipper midway through the 2013 season, replaced by Ryne Sandberg.

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UNIT# 1049 BEVERLY, ROBBITA
UNIT# 1248 BONAPARTE, DIANE
UNIT# 1070 CRUMPTON, ADRIENNE
UNIT# 1221
UNIT# 2183 FULFORD, KIA
UNIT# 0035 GORDON, MICHELLE
UNIT# 2051 HOLLOWAY, DENISE
UNIT# 1067 HOPKINS, GREGORY
UNIT# 1294 HOPKINS, KAVIN
UNIT# 0044 HYDEN, DARRELL
UNIT# 2063 JOHNSON, GERALD
UNIT# 1144 JONES, CLIFTON
UNIT# 2166 JONES, CLIFTON
UNIT# 2040 KNIGHT, AMATULLAH
UNIT# 1042 LEWIS, REGINA
UNIT# 1232 LOTT, TASHA
UNIT# 2004 MARRO, SHEILA
UNIT# 2242 MCDANIELS, HAROLD
UNIT# 2167 WARFIELD-SUTTON, KESHIA
UNIT# 2259 RASCHALL, SHEITA
UNIT# 1135 PERRY, LOISTINE
UNIT# 2139 PERRY, SHANTS
UNIT# 1130 PURKINS, JAZEEYA
UNIT# 2265 SHERRILL, SHERRILL
UNIT# 1124 THOMAS, LEONARD
UNIT# 1111 WASHINGTON, PATRICIA
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City of Philadelphia
Public Hearing Notice

The **Committee of the Whole** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, January 23, 2014,** at **2:00 PM,** in **Room 400, City Hall,** to hear testimony on the following items:

130685 An Ordinance amending Title 4 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "The Philadelphia Building Construction and Occupancy Code," amending Subcode A, entitled "The Philadelphia Administrative Code," by adding a new Chapter on site safety; amending Title 6 "Health Code," by increasing penalties and requiring notices for asbestos projects; and amending Title 9 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation of Businesses, Trades and Professions," by adding conditions for site safety monitor licensing; all under certain terms and conditions.

130688-A An Ordinance amending Title 9 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation of Businesses, Trades and Professions," by adding new rules and obligations pertaining to construction licenses and renewals of those licenses; creating demolition licenses and increasing fines for expediters that falsify information, all under certain terms and conditions.

130691-A An Ordinance amending Title 4 "The Philadelphia Building Construction and Occupancy Code," by amending Subcode "A," (The Philadelphia Administrative Code), and Subcode "B" (The Philadelphia Building Code), and Title 20 entitled "Officers and Employees," of The Philadelphia Code, by adding certain provisions related to construction and demolition, special inspections, contractors, stop work orders, fees, fines, ethical violations and penalties; all under certain terms and conditions.

130698-A An Ordinance amending Title 4 "The Philadelphia Building Construction and Occupancy Code," of The Philadelphia Code by amending Subcode "A," (The Philadelphia Administrative Code) by adding new definitions, enforcement powers, a separate permit for demolitions, and training requirements for Licenses and Inspections code officials; all under certain terms and conditions.

130647-A An Ordinance amending Title 4 "The Philadelphia Building Construction and Occupancy Code," by amending Subcode "A" (The Philadelphia Administrative Code), Subcode "F" (The Philadelphia Fire Code), and Subcode "PM" (The Philadelphia Property Maintenance Code) of The Philadelphia Code, by further amending construction and demolition practices, including but not limited to the following: adding new enforcement and inspection powers for the Fire Department at construction and demolition sites, requiring sharing of information amongst the City's departments to ensure compliance with all aspects of the code, establishing worksite public safety requirements, requiring evidence of training compliance by construction and demolition workers and new signage requirements; all under certain terms and conditions.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee of the Whole, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed items.

Copies of the foregoing items are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

Michael Decker
Chief Clerk

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Notice is hereby given that Delaware Valley Charter High School has released Request for Proposals (RFP's) for various networking equipment, servers, distance learning/video conferencing, cabling services and telecommunications, and internet access services. Details are provided within the formal posted RFP's, however the school will accept proposals that include compatible equipment/solutions. Interested respondents must have an E-rate SPIN number and adhere to the RFP response instructions. Complete responses must be received on or before 10 A/M E.S.T. on February 6, 2014 addressed to the contact person that is given on the first page of the RFP's.
To obtain a copy of the RFPs visit www.intelafunds.net and go to "Bid Opportunities" or you may find RFP copies on the schools website of www.dvchs.net. Questions regarding this request can be sent to Remy Bilboul at remy@intelogentresources.com or by calling 412-231-1515.

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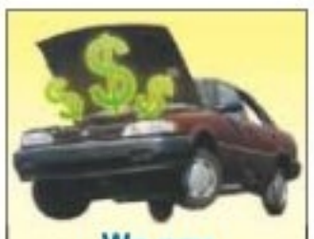

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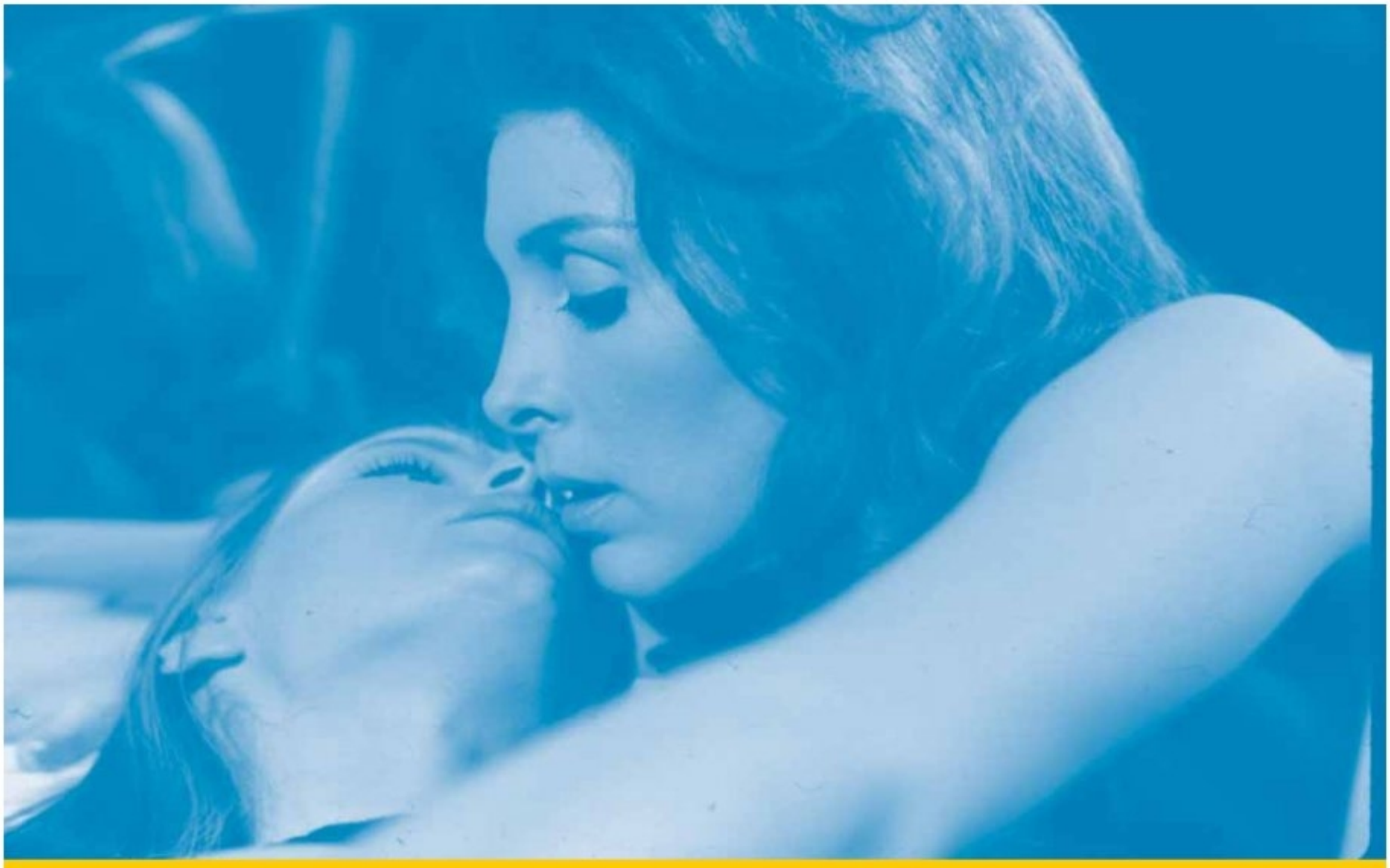

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